

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims are listed as follows:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of igniting a compressed base charge in a detonator, the base charge being caused to detonate by means of an initiating charge, wherein the base charge is further compressed to increased density under the action of a pressure from combustion gases which develop from the initiating charge which burns during an initiation phase, the pressure from the combustion gases acting on the base charge by way of a base charge compressing means arranged between the initiating charge and the base charge, said the increased density being maintained until the base charge is caused to detonate, wherein a secondary explosive arranged between the initiating charge and the base charge is caused to detonate after the provision of increased density in the base charge, which is ignited by the detonation of said secondary explosive .

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as claimed in claim 17~~ A method of igniting a compressed base charge in a detonator, the base charge being caused to detonate by means of an initiating charge, wherein the base charge is further compressed to increased density under the action of a pressure from combustion gases which develop from the initiating charge which burns during an initiation phase, the pressure from the combustion gases acting on the base charge by way of a base charge compressing means arranged between the

initiating charge and the base charge, said increased density being maintained until the base charge is caused to detonate, wherein the further compression of the base charge which is provided during the initiation phase results in at least some part of the base charge attaining a substantially crystalline state.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~19~~ 17, wherein the secondary explosive is present in a loosely pressed or unconfined state, and the combustion gases of the initiating charge are further used to heat until ignition and to compress the secondary explosive, which is finally caused to detonate.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~19~~ 17, wherein the pressure caused by the combustion of the initiating charge compresses the secondary explosive indirectly by transmission of force via a secondary explosive compressing means arranged between the initiating charge and the secondary explosive.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the secondary explosive is first heated until ignition, by combustion gases which develop from the initiating charge flowing into the secondary explosive, and then subject to ~~said~~ the compression.

23. (Currently Amended) An initiating element for use in a detonator to cause a compressed base charge, arranged in the detonator, to detonate, ~~said~~ the initiating element comprising an ignitable initiating charge which upon ignition generates combustion gases by means of which the base charge is intended to be caused to detonate, the initiating element comprising a base charge compressing means, which, when the initiating element is positioned in a detonator, is arranged, on the one hand, to abut against the base charge and, on the other, to be acted upon by ~~said~~ the combustion gases to be moved towards the base charge for compression of the same, the initiating element further comprising a secondary explosive which is arranged between the initiating charge and the base charge, the secondary explosive being arranged to detonate after provision of increased density in the base charge by the compression and to ignite the base charge by its detonation.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An initiating element as claimed in claim ~~24~~ 23, wherein the secondary explosive is present in a loosely pressed or unconfined state.

26. (Previously Presented) An initiating element as claimed in claim 25, wherein means are arranged to heat until ignition and compress the loosely pressed secondary explosive, by the action of the combustion gases, thereby to increase its energy to a level where it is caused to detonate.

27. (Currently Amended) An initiating element as claimed in claim 26, wherein ~~said~~ the loosely pressed secondary explosive is arranged in a duct in, or alternatively around, the base charge compressing means, and a secondary explosive compression means is movably arranged in the duct to cause ~~said~~ the compression of the secondary explosive under the action of the pressure from the combustion gages.

28. (Previously Presented) An initiating element as claimed in claim 27, wherein the length of the duct is greater than its diameter and smaller than ten times its diameter.

29. (Currently Amended) An initiating element as claimed in claim 27, wherein the base charge compressing means comprises a first piston and the secondary explosive compressing means comprises a movably arranged second piston, the outer diameter of ~~said~~ the first piston preferably being between 1.1 and 5.0 times the diameter of the movably arranged second piston.

30. (Previously Presented) An initiating element as claimed in claim 23, which has a substantially circular cross-section with a diameter which is substantially the same as the inner diameter of a detonator in which the initiating element is intended to be placed.

31. (Currently Amended) A detonator comprising a compressed base charge of a secondary explosive, wherein at least some part of ~~said~~ the base charge is in a substantially

crystalline state at the moment of detonation, the detonator comprising means for further compressing the base charge during an initiation phase, at least some part of the base charge thereby attaining a the substantially crystalline state.

32. (Previously Presented) A detonator comprising a compressed base charge of a secondary explosive, the detonator being provided with an initiating element as claimed in claim 23.